FTAs of 2.38 million during January to May, 2008. The region-wise details of FTAs are not available.

(c) The activities undertaken by the Ministry of Tourism, through the Indiatourism offices overseas, to promote India as a tourist destination and to increase FTAs to the country include:—

- Advertising in the Print, Electronic and Interactive Media.
- Outdoor Advertising particularly during important international events.
- Participation in Tourism Fairs and Exhibitions.
- Organising India Seminars, Workshops and Road Shows.
- Organising Food and Cultural Festivals.
- Organising/sponsoring India Evenings.
- Organising joint promotions with Departmental Stores, Airlines, Tour Operators and other stake holders.
- Inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers on Familiarization Trips of the country, under the Hospitality Programme.
- Printing of various publicity material in local languages.
- Dissemination of information through telephone, fax, mail, internet monthly newsletters and through interaction with visitors to the office and at India booths at various Travel Fairs and Exhibitions.
- Promotions in cultural/sports events organized by Indian Missions or other Indian organizations.
- Brochure Support/Joint Advertising with Travel Agents/Tour Operators.
- Organising Print Media and TV interviews and Public Relations.

Tour advisory against visiting India

98. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that USA has issued tour advisory to its nationals against taking visits to India due to security reasons;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken this issue with the US and how it would impact Indian tourism industry due to this advisory;

(c) whether Government is aware that cases of molestation against foreign visitors are increasing day by day; and

(d) the steps that have been taken and publicized by Government to protect foreign tourists at tourist places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Travel advisories have been issued by various countries from time to time, advising their citizens to avoid travel or to take

precautions while traveling to areas in the country which are temporarily disturbed. The Ministry of Tourism through its overseas offices and in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian missions abroad takes up the matter regarding lifting of travel advisories as and when issued by different countries to avoid any adverse impact on tourism to the country.

(c) and (d) Safety and security is a State subject. The Ministry of Tourism has advised the State Governments/Union Territories for deployment of Tourism Police and to take adequate measures for the safety of tourists at all important tourist centres/destinations.

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Tourism has launched media campaigns against 'Molestation of Tourists' to create awareness and to sensitise masses regarding the importance of good behaviour with tourists.

Infrastructure to promote tourism

99. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the various projects undertaken to improve infrastructure in the country to promote tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 346 projects for Rs. 1531.35 crore to improve tourism infrastructure in the country during the first two years of the Eleventh Five Year Plan under the following Schemes:—

1. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits including Rural Tourism.
2. Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.
3. Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development.

Water supply in Guwahati

100. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total population and class category of Guwahati city and the percentage of population covered with existing water supply schemes;

(b) whether proposal for water supply amounting to Rs. 1100 crore to cover the remaining population has been received by his Ministry;

(c) if so, the details and the status thereof; and

(d) by when it is likely to be cleared indicating the total outlay, target, executing agency and number of beneficiaries to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) The total estimated population of Guwahati Metropolitan Area currently is 12.46 lakhs. 30.25% of the population is covered with Piped Water Supply Scheme in Guwahati Municipal Corporation area. Guwahati is a class-I city (Population above one lakh) as per 2001 census.